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DANTE,
AND
THE LANCELOT ROMANCE.
BY
PAGET TOYNBEE.

DANTE, AND THE LANCELOT ROMANCE.

AT the beginning of Canto XVI. of the "Paradiso," Dante, in addressing the spirit of his ancestor Cacciaguida, makes use of the consequential *voi*; whereat, he says, Beatrice —

Ridendo, parve quella, che tossio
Al primo fallo scritto di Ginevra. (vv. 14, 15.)

This allusion has been a stumbling-block to the commentators. No mention of any such incident is made in the printed editions of the "Lancelot du Lac," and the early commentators, who might have been expected to know the version of the Romance current in Dante's time, differ considerably in their remarks upon the passage.

Pietro di Dante, for instance, confining himself to the bare record of the incident, though he adds the name of the lady, says: "Beatrix risit ut fecit illa dama de Malehault dum Gineura osculata est primo de Lancialotto." So the Ottimo Commento: "Quando presente Galeotto . . . Lancelotto fu baciato dalla reina Ginevra . . . la donna di malo abito (*sic*) tossio, in segno che avveduta s'era del fallo della reina." So, too, the Postillatore Cassinese: "Hic comparat Beatricem damae Molaut dum nutu tuxivit videndo reginam Gineveram obscurari a Lancialotto." And another commentator,¹ more fully: "Beatricie parve ridendo quella che tossio al primo fallo scritto di Gieneura cioe el bacio che fue la prima falsita damore

¹ In a manuscript in Bibliothèque Nationale, — perhaps Jacopo della Lana.

di Gieneura el quale fu scripto al chapitolo V° del Inferno, che essendo uenuto Lancilotto a parlamento chon la Regina Gie-neure per lopera del Principo Galeotto, parendogli di grande sua uergogna ad appalantare e manifestare la fiamma del suo amore, e'l Principo Galeoto se interpuose e fecie che lor se peruenne a baciare luno laltro. Allora una donna, chiamata Dama, chompagna de la ditta Regina auedendosi de latto chomincio a tossire et asputare quasi dicat Io te ho ben ueduto chussi nel proposito Beatricie rise mo quasi dicat Io te aldo bene o uer tu seray bene udito guarda cio che tu dichì."

On the other hand, the Anonimo Fiorentino, with whom several others agree, annotates: "Or Lancialotto, costretto d'amore, stava timido appresso la reina Ginevra, nè parlava, nè s'argomentava di fare altro: la donna di Manoalt, sì come ricordata, e che conosceva lo luogo e'l perchè dov' erano, tossìo, e fe cecenzo a Lancialotto che dovesse prendere alcuno diletto; ond'egli, così favoreggiatto, gittò lo braccio al collo alla Reina e baciolla."

These two renderings of the occurrence are widely different,—according to the one, the cough would be a sign of warning or of disapproval; according to the other, of encouragement.

Modern commentators have been equally at a loss to explain the allusion. Philalethes (King John of Saxony) remarks in a note upon this passage: "Von einem Husten bei dieser Dame (von Mallehaut) als Zeichen der Missbilligung oder der Warnung kommt mindestens in dem Französischen Roman nichts vor, und auch in dem Italienischen Bruchstück jener Erzählung, welches in der Paduaner Ausgabe der 'Divina Commedia' von 1822 abgedruckt ist, findet sich nichts davon. Gleichwohl muss man annehmen, dass in irgend einer Bearbeitung dieses Romans etwas der Art vorkomme, weil Dante Beatrice's warnendes oder missbilligendes Lächeln mit solchem Husten vergleicht." Similarly Scartazzini, in his laborious edition of the "Paradiso" (1882), says: "Di questo

tossire non si fa menzione nel romanzo di Lancillotto del Lago quale si conosce oggi . . . ai tempi di Dante doveva esserci una versione del famoso romanzo, in cui si raccontava la circostanza quì accennata."

It has, therefore, been concluded that Dante made use of some version of the "Arturi Regis ambages pulcherrimae" which has been lost to us. Witte supposes it may have been one by the Provençal poet, Arnaut Daniel.¹

Recent investigation, however, has put an end to all uncertainty with regard to this question.

Dante, as may be gathered from the "De Vulgari Eloquio"

¹ The opinion that Arnaut Daniel wrote a prose Romance of Lancelot seems to have been founded upon a misunderstanding of "Purgatorio," xxvi, 118, and upon a remark of Tasso's on that passage. M. Gaston Paris has shown that this opinion is erroneous: Il n'y a aucune raison, he says, de supposer que le poète florentin ait connu d'autres œuvres d'Arnaut que celles qui nous sont parvenues: dans le *De vulgari eloquentia*, Dante cite comme exemples des chansons d'Arnaut Daniel, et elles font toutes partie du recueil que nous connaissons. Dans l'éloge qu'il fait du troubadour, Dante dit: *Versi d'amore e prose di romanzi Soverchid tutti*, et c'est ce passage qui, mal interprété à ce que je crois, a donné naissance à diverses erreurs. On l'a toujours entendu en ce sens qu'Arnaut aurait composé des vers d'amour et des romans en prose qui surpassaient tous les autres; mais il signifie simplement: "Il a dépassé tous les vers d'amour et toutes les proses de romans; il est supérieur à la fois aux auteurs de vers d'amour et de romans en prose;" c'est-à-dire, si on tient compte de la manière toujours très particulière dont Dante formule ses jugements, et si on se reporte à un passage bien connu du *De vulgari eloquentia*, "il a effacé tous ceux qui ont écrit soit en provençal, soit en français." Dante dit en effet dans le *De vulgari eloquentia* que la langue d'oïl allègue pour elle que tout ce qui existe en prose vulgaire, soit traduit, soit original (*quicquid redactum sive inventum est ad vulgare prosaicum*) lui appartient: ce *vulgare prosaicum* c'est la *prosa di romanzi*. (On a prétendu, il est vrai, que *vulgare prosaicum* et *prose di romanzi* désignaient des romans en vers, car les romans arthuriens qui circulaient à l'époque de Dante étaient en vers. . . . C'est une erreur qu'il est inutile de réfuter aujourd'hui). S'il en était autrement, si Dante avait voulu dire dans la *Comédie*, qu'Arnaut écrivit les plus beaux romans en prose qui existent, comment aurait-il pu affirmer ailleurs que tout ce qui est écrit en prose vulgaire est en langue d'oïl? Comment surtout aurait-il pu ajouter: "comme les belles histoires du roi Arthur (*Arturi regis ambages pulcherrimae*)," si la plus célèbre de ces histoires, le Lancelot, eût été en provençal? — (*Études sur les Romans de la Table Ronde*. Romania, x, 484 ff.)

(i. 10), read the story of Lancelot in the "Lingua Oil;" and by a happy chance I have been able to identify the passage alluded to by him, in an extract from one of the old French manuscripts in the British Museum, made for me by a friend for the purposes of a note upon "Inferno," v. 137.

Led by this to pursue the subject further, I found that of nineteen manuscripts examined in the British Museum, and Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris (ten of the thirteenth century, four of the fourteenth, and five of the fifteenth) all save one — where the omission is evidently owing to the carelessness of the copyist — contain the passage in question, of which as I have since discovered, a paraphrase in modern French is given, with a reference to Dante, by Paulin Paris in his "Romans de la Table Ronde" (vol. iii. p. 263). He does not, however, appear to have been aware that the commentators on the "Divina Commedia" were in the dark as to the allusion.

The following extract, which I have transcribed, with the usual expansions, from a thirteenth century manuscript,¹ describes how Gallehaut (not *Galahad*, as many wrongly have it) contrived the meeting between Lancelot and Guenever, how they kissed, and how they were observed by the Lady of Malehaut. It thus serves to illustrate both "Inferno," v. 128, 137, and "Paradiso," xvi. 13-15.

By way of introduction, it may be premised that Lancelot on his first appearance at the court of King Arthur, who knighted him, became deeply enamored of Queen Guenever, "la Dame des dames," as she is styled in the old Romances. Inspired by his love for her, he performed such deeds of chivalry as made him the most famous among all the knights of the Round Table. He, however, strictly concealed his name, and endeavored by constantly changing his armor and

¹ Landsdowne, 757 (fol. 71, verso b. — fol. 76, recto b.) in British Museum. This version of the "Lancelot du Lac" is attributed to Maistres Gautiers Map, or Walter Map, the English chaplain of Henry the Second of England.

his shield to escape recognition. It is for this reason that Guenever, during her interview with him, so closely questions him as to his identity. While in quest of adventures, Lancelot comes to a town called Le Puy de Malehaut, where he is detained a prisoner by the Lady of Malehaut. She, having fallen in love with him, offers him his liberty if he will disclose his name. This he declines to do, but the Lady of Malehaut, relenting, allows him to depart in order that he may fight against Gallehault, "Roy d'Outre les Marches," who was in arms against King Arthur ; while the lady herself repairs to the court and becomes the companion of Queen Guenever. By Lancelot's means Gallehault is induced to tender his submission, and a close friendship springs up between the two, the result of which is that Gallehault undertakes to bring about a meeting between his friend and the Queen. Guenever, who has a great admiration for the unknown knight, becomes impatient for the interview, and at last Gallehault comes to Lancelot, who is living in his camp, and tells him that it can no longer be put off, and must take place that very day. At this point our story begins :—

Einsint aloit Galehout a son compaignon au main et au soir · et a chascune foiz quil reuenoit li demandoit la roine quil auoit troue · Et la nuit reuint Galehout la ou il soloit · l'endemain par matin a son compaignon¹ et si li dist · Il ni a plus · car hui en cest ior · couient que la roine uos uoie. Sire por deu fetes issi · que nulle riens ne le sache · fors uos et li · car il a assez de tex en la meson lo roi qui me conoistroient bien sil me ueoient. Or naiez garde · fet Galehout · car ge en penserai molt bien · atant prent de lui congie · si apele son seneschal · Gardez · fet il · se ge uos enuoi querre que uos ueingniez a moi et amenez mon compaignon si que nulle riens ne sache que ce soit il.

¹ *Et lendemain leua bien matin · et reuint a son compaignon.* Royal 19, B. vii. *E lendemain bien par matin reuint a son compaignon.* Royal 20, D. iii.

Sire · fait cil · uostre plesir. Lors reuient Galehout au tref lo roi. Et la roine li demande quex noueles. Dame · fet il · beles assez · uenuz est la flor des cheualiers del monde. Et dex · fet ele · coment le uerrai gie · car ge le uoil ueoir en tel maniere que nus ne lo sache fors lui et moi et uos · car ie ne uoil mie que autres genz en aient aise. Et en non deu dame · fet Galehout · ainsi iert il · car il dit quil ne uoldroit mie que nules genz de la meson lo roi artur le conceussent por nule rien. Coment · fet ele · est il donc coneuz a rienz.¹ Dame · fet il · tex genz le porroient ueoir qui bien le conois-troient. Dex · fet la roine · qui puet il estre. Dame · fet Galehout · si maît dex ge ne sai · car onques ne me dist son non ne dom il est. Non · fet ele · si maist dex merueilles oi · et or mest assez plus tart² que ge le uoie conques mes. Dame · fet il · uos le uerroiz assez (?) encor anuit · et si uos dirai coment. Nos en irons senpres deduire la aual · si li mostre un leu en mi la prairie tot plains darbroisieaus · si aurons au meins de conpaingnie que nos porrons · et la le uerroiz · si irons un poi deuant ce que anuitier doie. Ha · fet ele · traus doz amis com auez or bien dit. Et pleust or au seingnor³ del mont quil anuitast ia · lors comencent andui a rire et la roine lacole et li fait molt grant ioie. Et la dame de maloaut les uoit rire si pense que or est la chose plus hastiue quel nel seut · si sen prent molt garde et ne uient cheualier en la meson cui ele nesgart en mi le uis. Molt fait la roine grant ioie del cheualier qui uenuz est et molt li tarde que la nuit uiengne · Si entent a parler et a ragier⁴ por le ior oblier qui li ennuie.

Einsi passa le ior tant que uint apres souper quil auespri. Et la roine a pris Galehout par la main · et la dame de malo-

¹ *Des gens de caiens*. Manuscript 344 in Bibliothèque Nationale.

² Partially erased. Royal 20, D. iii., and Royal 19, B. vii. read *tart*.

³ *Sauueor*. Manuscript 339 in Bibliothèque Nationale.

⁴ So manuscripts 339 and 773 in Bibliothèque Nationale; two manuscripts in British Museum read *a ioier*. Manuscript 96 in Bibliothèque Nationale reads *au menyer*. All three words mean very much the same.

ut auoc li · et damoisele lore de cardoil · et une soe pucele sanz plus de conpaingnie · si sentorne tot contreual les prez · droit la ou Galehout auoit dit. Et quant il ont un poi ale · et Galehout se regarde et uoît un escuier si lapele et li dit quil aillie dire a son seneschal quil uiegne a lui e li mostre en quel leu. Et quant la roine lot si se regarde et dit · coment · fet ele · est il uostre seneschaus. Nenil dame · fet il · mes il uendra auoc lui. Atant sen uient soz les arbres · si sasient a une part entre la roine et Galehout bien loing des autres. Et la dame de maloaut et les autres autresi se merueillent molt de ce quil sont si priueement · et li uallez uint au seneschal · si fist son message. Et cil prist tantost le cheualier auoc lui si passerent leue et uindrent tot contreual les prez la ou li uallez lor mostra.¹ Quant il aprochierent et les dames les esgardent si connut la dame de maloaut le buen cheualier comme cele qui maint ior lauoit eu en sa baillie et por ce quele ne uoloit mie quil la coneust senbroncha et se traist pres de madamoisele lore. Et cil trespassent outre si se traist pres li seneschaus des dames et les salue · et Galehout dit a la roine · Dame uez ci le meilleur cheualier del monde. Li quex est ce · fet la roine. Dame li quex uos resenble ce estre. Certes · fet ele · il sont andui molt bel cheualier · mes ge ne uoi ci cors ou il deust auoir la moitie de proece quil auoit el noir cheualier. Dame · fet il · bien sachiez que ce est li uns de cez deus.

Atant uienent deuant la roine et li cheualiers tranble si durement quil ne puet la roine saluer · et a tote la color perdue si que la roine sen merueille molt · lors sagenoillent ambedui · et li seneschax Galehout la salue et ausi fait li autres cheualiers · mais ce est molt pourement ainz fiche ses euz en terre comme honteus. Et lors sapense la roine que ce est il. Et lors dist Galehout au seneschal · alez si fetes con-

¹ Manuscript 1340 in Bibliothèque Nationale has here : *si furent andui si bon cheualier et si bel que por noient queist en plus bel en nul pais*. And so several other manuscripts.

paingnie a ces dames qui trop sont seules. Et la roine prent le cheualier par la main ¹ la ou il est agenouz si lasiet deuant li et li fet molt bel senblant · et li dit tot en riant. Sire molt uos auons desirie tant que deu merci et Galehout qui ci est que or uos ueons. Et neporquant encor ne saige mie se uos estes le cheualier que ge demant. Mes Galehout me dit que ce estes uos · et encor uoldroie ge bien sauoir de uostre boche se uostre plesir estoit qui uos estes. Et il li respont quil ne set · nonques nule foiz ne la regarda en mi le uis. Et la roine merueille molt que il puet auoir · et tant que ele sospiece bien une partie de ce que il a.² Et Galehout qui honteus le uoit et esbahiz pense quil diroit ancois a la roine son penser sol a sol · si se regarde et dit si haut que les dames loent. Certes · fet il · molt sui or uilains que totes ses dames non cun sol cheualier a compaignie ainz sont si soles · lors se drece et uient a eles · et eles se uient totes en contre lui · et il les raset. Et lors commencent a parler de maintes choses. Et la roine met le cheualier en paroles · et si li dit · beax doz sire por quoi uos celez uos uers moi · certes il ni a mie por quoi. Et neporquant uos me poez bien dire se uos estes celui qui uenque lassemblee deuantier. Dame · fet il · nenil. Comment · fet ele · nauiez uos unes armes totes noires. Dame oil. Et dont nestes uos celui cui messire G.³ enuoia les trois cheuaus. Dame oil. Donc nestes uos cil qui porta les armes Galehout le desreain ior. Dame oil. Donc nestes uos celui ⁴ qui lassemblee uainque le segont ior. Dame non fis uoir. Lors sapercut bien la reine quil ne uoloit pas conoistre que il leust uaincue · si lemprise mout en son cuer. Or me dites · fait ele · qui uos fist cheualier. Dame uos ·

¹ Manuscript 16,999 in Bibliothèque Nationale has here : *et le fait lever de la ou il estoit a genouls deuant.*

² Manuscript 98 in Bibliothèque Nationale has here : *et la roine qui honteus le voit pence quil diroit plus tost son penceir cilz estoient soul a soul · si regarde Galehos · et Galehos qui bien sen apparsoit dit si hault, etc.*

³ *Gauuains*, Jonckbloet.

⁴ From here in another hand.

fait il. Gie . fait ele . quant. Dame . fet il . membre uos il que uns cheualiers uint a monseignor lo roi a camaalot qui iert naurez parmi le cors de dous troncons de lance et dune espee parmi la teste e que uns uallez uint autresi a lui a uendredi a soir qui fu cheualiers au diemenche matin. De ce . fet ele . me souient il molt bien . e se dex uos ait fustes uos ce que la damoisele amena a cort uestuz de la robe blanche. Oil dame . fait il. Et porcoi . fet ele . dites uos donc que ge uos fis cheualier. Dame porce que il est uoirs . car la costume est tels el roiaume de logres que cheualiers ni puet estre fez sanz espee ceindre . et cil de cui il tient lespee le fet cheualier et de uos la tienge dame car li rois ne men dona point . et porce dige que uos me feistes cheualier. Certes . fet la roine . de ce suige mout liee . et ou alastes uos diluec. Dame ge men alai a un secors a la dame de noant . si iuint puis missire kex et nos combatismes moi et lui a dous cheualiers. Et deuant ce . fet la roine . menuoiastes uos nule riens. Dame oil dous puceles. Par mon chief . fet ele . il est uoirs . et quant uos fustes repairez de noant trouastes uos nului qui deparmoi se reclamast. Dame certes oil un cheualier qui gardoit un gue si me dist que ge alasse ius de mon cheual . et ge li demandai a cui il estoit . et il me dist que il estoit a uos . alez tost ius fist il . et ge li demandai qui le commandoit . et il dist quil mauoit commandement se le suen non . et ge remis le pie en lestrier que ge en auoie ia oste . et li dis sanz faille que il nen auroit mes hui point. Si iostai a lui et si sai bien que ge fis outrage . si uos en cri merci dame et uos entreprenez lamende tele comme il uos plaira. Et la reine qui bien uoit quil ne li puet guenchir que suens ne soit li respont . certes biaux douz amis . fet ele . moi ne mesfeistes uos rien . car il nestoit pas a moi . ainz len soi molt malues gre quant il uint a moi et il le me dist . mes or me dites ou alastes uos diluec. Dame . fet il . a la dolerouse garde. Qui la conquist . fet ele. Dame . fet il . gi entrai. Et ui uos i ge onques . fet ele. Dame oil plus dune foiz. En

quel leu · fet ele. Dame un ior que ge uos demande se uos uoldriez entrer enz · et uos deistes que oil · si estiez mout esbahie par semblant et ce uos dis ge par dous foiz. Quel escu · fet ele · portiez uos. Dame · fet il · ge portoie a la premiere foiz un escu tot blanc a une bende de bellic uermeille · et a lautre foiz un a dous bendes dautretel color.¹ Cet enseignes · fet la roine · conoisge bien et ui uos i ge plus. Dame oil la nuit que uos cuidiez auoir perdu monseigneur Gauvain uostre nies et ses compaignons et que les genz del chastel crioient · prenez le prenez le · et ge men uing hors un escu a mon col a trois bendes de bellic uermeilles · et missires li rois estoit deuant unes loges avec uos et quant ge uing uers [uos]² lui si sescrierent les genz · prenez le roi prenez le roi · mes il men laissa aler soe merci. Certes · fet ele · ce poise moi · car sil uos eust retenu tuit li enchantement del chastel fussent remes. Mais or me dites fustes uos ce qui gitastes Gauvain et ses compaignons de la prison. Dame ge i aidai a mon pooir. En totes les choses · fet ele · que uos mauiez dites naige encore troue se uerite non · mes por deu or me dites qui estoit une pucele qui uit³ la nuit en une tornele qui estoit de sus lostel monseignor lo roi uestue dun chainsil blanc. Certes dame · fet il · ce fu la damoisele uers cui ge uilenai onques plus · car la dame del lac la mauoit enuoiee · et ele me troua en cele tornele si fu assez enoree por moi. Et quant ge oi les noueles de monseignor Gauvain qui pris estoit si fui mout corrociez · si me parti de la damoisele qui avec moi uoloit uenir · et ge li priaï par icele foi que ele me deuoit que ele ne se meust deuant ce que ele ueist mon mesage ou moi · si fui si surpris de si granz afaires que ge len obliai · ne a li ne retornai puis · et ele fu plus leax uers moi que ge ne fuis cortois uers lui · car onques diluec ne se mut deuant que ele oi mes enseignes · et ce fu

¹ From this point in a third hand.

² *Uos* underlined in the manuscript as not wanted.

³ *Uint*, Jonckbloet.

grant piece apres. Et quant la roine loi parler de la damoisele del lac si sot bien tantost que cestoit lancelot. Si li enquist de totes iceles choses que ele auoit oies retraire de lui et de totes le troua uoir disant. Or me dites · fet ele · apres puis que uos fustes cheualiers partiz de camaalot uos i ui ge onques puis. Dame · fet il · oil tele ore que uos meustes grant mestier · car ge ieusse este noiez se uos ne fussiez qui me feistes trere hors del eue a monseignor yuain. Coment · fet ele · fustes uos ce que daguenez li coarz prist. Dame · fet il · ge ne sai qui ce fu mes pris fui ge sanz faille. Et ou aliez uos · fet ele. Dame · fet il · ge suioie un cheualier. Et quant uos fustes · fet ele · partiz de moi a la desreaine foiz ou alastes uos. Dame apres le cheualier que ge suioie. Combatistes uos uos a lui. Dame oil. Et ou alastes uos apres. Dame ge trouai dous granz uileins qui mocistrent mon cheual · mes missire yuains¹ qui buene auentere ait me dona le suen. Ha · fet la roine donc saige bien qui uos iestes · uos auez a non lancelot del lac. Et il se taist. Par deu · fet ele · por naient le celez · pieca que len le set · car missire Gauuains aporta premierement uostre non a cort. Lors li conte tot eissi com missire Gauuains auoit dit que cestoit la tierce assemblee quant messire yuains dist que la pucele li auoit dit cest la tierce. Lors li redemande porcoi il auoit soffert que li pires om del monde len auoit amene par le frein. Dame · fet il · gel pooie bien soffrir comme cil qui nauoie pooir ne de mon cuer ne de mon cors. Or me dites · fet ele · antan fustes uos a lassemble. Dame oil. Queles armes · fet ele · portastes uos. Dame · fet il · unes totes uermeilles. Par mon chief · fet ele · uos dites uoir · et auant ier a lassemblee por cui feistes uos tant darmes. Et il commence a sôspirer mout durement. Et la reine le tient mout cort comme cele qui bien uoit comment il est. Dites le moi · fet ele · seurement car ge ne uos en descouerrai ia · et ge sai bien que por dame ou por damoisele auez uos tot ce fet ·

¹ *Gauuains*, Jonckbloet.

et dites moi qui ele est par la foi que uos li deuez. Ha dame · fet il · ge uoi bien quil le me couient dire. Ce iestes uos dame. Gie · fet ele · por moi ne portastes¹ uos mie les dous glaiues que ma pucele uos porta · car ge mestoie bien mise hors del mandement as autres dames. Dame · fet il · ge fis por eles ce que ge dui et pors uos ce que ge poi. Or me dites · fet ele · totes les choses que uos auez fetes por qui les feistes uos. Dame · fet il · por uos. Coment · fet ele · amez me uos donc tant. Dame · fet il · ge naim tant ne moi ne autrui. Et desquant · fet la reine · mamez uos tant. Dame · fet il · des le ior que ge fui apele cheualier et si ne lestoie mie. Par la foi · fet ele · que uos me deuez dont uint cest amor que uos auez en moi mise si grant et si enterine.²

A ces paroles que la reine li disoit auint que la dame de maloaut sestossi tot a escient et dreca la teste que ele auoit embronchiee. Et li cheualiers lentendi maintenant car mainte fois lauoit oie · et il lesgarde et quant il la uit si ot tel peor et tele angoisse que il ne pot mot respondre a ce que la reine li demandoit³ si commence a sospirer si durement que les lermes li corioient des eux tot contreal les ioes si espesement que li samiz dont il estoit uestuz en fu moilliez iusque sor les genolz deuant · et quant il plus esgardoit la dame de maloaut et sis cuers estoit plus a maleese. De ceste chose se prist la reine garde · et uit quil lesgardoit mout peoreusement la ou les

¹ Corrected to *bruistastes*: *peceiastes*, Jonckbloet: *ployastes*, Paulin Paris: *pechoiastes*, add. 10,293.

² Here follows the incident alluded to by Dante. In the printed editions (Rouen, 1488, and Paris, 1494) it is entirely omitted. The passage there runs: "*Par la foy que vous me deuez dont vindrent ces amours que vous auez en moy mises?*" "*Dame,*" fait il, "*vous le me feistes faire qui de moy feistes vostre amy, se vostre bouche ne me a menty.*" From this it may be seen how superior the manuscript version is both in point of copiousness and of linguistic interest.

³ Royal 19, C. xiii, is rather fuller here: *Et quant li cheualiers a cui la roine parloit oi la dame de malohaut tussir cui il auoit meinte foiz oie et neue si regarde cele part et la conoist erramment si a lors teil honte et tel angoisse quil ne set quil doit fere.*

dames estoient · et ele laresna. Dites moi · fet ele · dont ceste amors mut que ge uos demant. Et il sesforce de parler au plus que il puet et dit. Dame si mait dex des le ior que ge uos ai dit. Coment fu ce donques · fet ele. Dame · fet il · uos le me feistes fere · qui de moi feistes uostre ami se uostre boche ne men menti. Mon ami · fet ele · coment. Dame · fet il · ge uing deuant uos quant ge oi pris congie del roi monseignor toz armez fors de mon chief et de mes mains · si uos commandai adeu · et dit que estoie uostres cheualiers et uostre amis et uos respondistes que uostre cheualiers et uostre amis uoliez uos bien que ge fusse en toz les leus ou ge seroie · et ge dis · adeu dame · et uos deistes adeu biaux dolz amis · onques puis ciz moz ne me issi del cuer · ce fu li moz qui proudom me fera se ge ia le sui · ne onques puis ne uing en si grant meschief que de cest mot ne me membrast. Ciz moz ma conforte en toz mes ennuiz. Ciz moz ma de toz max este garanz · et ma garde de toz perilz. Ciz moz ma saole en totes mes granz feins. Ciz moz ma fet riche en mes granz pouretez.

Parfoi · fet la reine · ci ot mot de buene ore dit · et dex en soit aorez qui dire le me fist · mes ge nel pernoie pas si acertes comme uos feistes · et a maint cheualier ai ge autresi dit ou ge ne pensai onques que le dire · e uostre pensers ne fu mie uileins · mes dolz et debueneres · si uos en est bien auenu car prodrom uos a fet. Et neporquant¹ la costume est mes tele es cheualiers quil font semblant as dames de tex choses dont pou lor est as cuers · et uostre semblant me mostre que uos amez ne sai la quele de cez dames qui la sont plus que uos ne faites moi · quar uos auez assez plore de peor ne nosez regarder uers eles de droit esgart · si maparcoif bien que uostre pensers nest pas a moi tant com uos me fetes entendant · et par la foi que uos deuez a la rien que

¹ *Et neporquant la costume nest mies tele des cheualiers qui font ;* manuscript 339 in Bibliothèque Nationale. *Et non pour tant la coustume est ore telle des cheualiers qui font ;* Paulin Paris.

uos plus amez · la · quele des trois est ce que uos amez tant. Si mait dex · fet il · onques nule deles not mon cuer en sa baillie. Ce na mestier · fet la reine · uos ne men poez rien embler car iai ueues meintes choses autreteles · et ge uoi bien que uostre cuers est la comment que li cors soit ci · et ce disoit ele por ueior de combien ele le porroit metre a malese · car ele cuidoit bien sauoir quil ne pensoit damors¹ se a li non · ia mar eust il fet por li que seulement la iornee que il fist es armes noires² · mes ele se delitoit mout durement en sa mesaise ueoir et escouter. Et cil en fu si angoisseus que par un pou que il ne pasma · mes la poor des dames qui lesgaroient le retint et la reine meesmes sen dota porce que ele le uit palir et color changier. Si le prist par le braz quil ne chaist et apela Galehout et il salt sus si uient a li corant · et uoit que sis compainz est issi conreez · si en a si grant angoisse a son cuer comme il puet greignor auoir · et dit · Ha dame por deu dites moi que il a eu. Et la reine li conte ce que ele li ot mis deuant. Ha dame · fet Galehout · merci · uos le nos porriez bien tolir par tex corroz · et ce seroit trop grant damages. Certes · fait ele · ce seroit mon · mes sauez uos por cui il a tant fet darmes. Dame · fet Galehout · naie uoir. Se ce est uoirs · fet ele · quil ma dit ce fu por moi. Dame · fet Galehout · einsi uoirement mait dex bien lempoez croire · car autresi comme il est plus proudom que nul ome autresi est sis cuers plus uerais que tuit li autre. Voirement · fet la reine · diriez uos quil est proudom se uos sauiez quil a fet darmes puis quil fu cheualiers. Lors li conte les cheualeries si comme il les auoit fetes · et si li auoit coneu quil auoit portees les armes uermeilles a lautre assemblee · et sachiez de uoir quil a totes cez choses fetes por un sol mot. Lors li deuise la reine le mot si com uos auez oi quil lauot dit. Ha dame · fet

¹ *Darme*. Manuscript 751 in Bibliothèque Nationale.

² *Fa mar eust il plus fait pour li que la iornee des armes noires*; manuscript 16,999 in Bibliothèque Nationale. See note to Translation, p. 69.

Galehout · aiez en merci por ses granz desertes et fetes le por moi autresi comme ge ai fet ce que uos me proiastes. Quel merci · fet ele · uolez uos que ge en aie. Dame · fet Galehout · uos sauez bien que il uos aime sor tote rien · et plus a fet por uos que onques nus autres cheualiers ne fist mes por dame · et ueez le ci · si sachiez de uoir que ia la pes de monseignor lo roi et de moi ne fust se il sescors ne leust faite. Certes · fet ele · ge ne dot mie que il nait plus fet por moi que ge ne porroie deseruir · sil nauoit plus fet que ceste pes porchaciee · ne il ne me porroit nule riens requerre que ge li peusse belement neer · mes il nē me requiert nule rien · ainz est si dolenz que il ne fina de plorer onques puis que il commenca a regarder uers cez dames la · neporquant ge nel mescroi pas damor que il ait a nule deles · mes il dote se deuient que aucune deles le conoisse. Dame · fet Galehout · de ce ne couient il tenir nule parole · mes aiez merci de lui car il uos aime assez plus que il ne fet soi meesmes · ne mie porce que si mait dex ge ne sauoie riens de son couine quant il iuint · fors tant quil dotoit estre coneuz · ne onques riens plus ne men descouri. Gen aure · fait ele · tel merci com uos uoldroiz · car uos auez fet ce que ge uos requis · li doi bien fere ce que uos uoldroiz · mes il ne me prie de rien. Dame · fait Galehout · quil nen a pooir ne len ne puet nule riens amer que len ne dot · mais ge uos pri por lui · et se ge ne uos emprioie sel deuriez uos porchascier · car plus riche tresor ne porriez uos mie conquerre. Certes · fet ele · gel sai bien et gen ferai quanque uos commanderioiz. Dame · fet Galehout · granz merciz · et ge uos pri que uos li doigniez uostre amor · et que uos le prengniez a uostre cheualier a toz iorz · et uos deueniez sa loiaus amie a toz les iorz de uostre uie · lors si lauroiz fet plus riche que se uos li doniez tot le monde. Einsint · fet la reine · lotroi gie que il miens soit et ge totē soe · et par uos soient amende tuit li mesfait et li trespas des couenances. Dame · fet il · granz merciz · mais or icouient commencement de

seurte. Vos nen deuïseroiz ia nule chose · fet la roine. que ge nen face. Dame · fet Galehout · donc le besiez par commencement damor ueraie. Del besier · fet ele · ne uoi ge ore ne leu ne tens · mes ne dotez mie que ge ausi uolenteiue nen soie comme il seroit · mes ces dames sont iluec qui mout se merueillent que nos auons ici tant fet · si ne porroit estre que eles nel ueissent · et neporquant sil uelt ge le besere mout uolentiers · et il en est si liez et si esbahiz que il ne puet respondre mot fors tant solement · dame granz merciz. Ha dame · fet Galehout · del suen uoloir ne dotez uos ia quil iest toz · et si sachiez bien que ia riens nule ne sen aperceura · car nos nos trairons tuit troi ensemble autresi comme se nos conseillions. De coi me feroie ge prier · fet ele · plus le uoil ge que uos ne il. Lors se traient tuit troi ensemble et font semblant de conseillicier. Et la reine uoit bien que li cheualiers nen ose plus fere · si le prent par le menton et le bese uoiant Galehout assez longuement · si que la dame de maloaut sot de uoir que il la baisoit. Lors commence la reine a parler qui molt estoit uaillant dame et sage.

Biaus douz amis · fet ele · ge sui uostre tant auez fet por moi · et mout en ai grant ioie · or si gardez que la chose soit si celee con uos sauez quil en est mestiers · car ge sui une des dames del monde dont len a greignors biens diz · et se mis lox empiroit par uos ci auroit amor laide et uileine · et uos Galehout · fet ele · empri ge qui plus iestes sages · car se maus men uenoit ce ne seroit se par uos non · et se ge en ai bien ne ioie uos la mauroiz donee. Dame · fet Galehout · certes il ne porroit pas uers uos mesprendre · mes ge uos ai fet ce que uos me priastes · or si me seroit mestiers que uos moissiez dune proiere que ge uos fis tres ier · quant ge uos dis que uos mi porriez plus aidier par tens que ge a uos. Dites · fet ele · seurement · car uos ne me sauriez nule rien requerre que ge ne fesse por uos. Dame · fet il · donc mauez uos otroie que uos me donroiz sa compaigniez a toz iorz. Certes · fet ele · se il de ce uos failloit

malement auriez emploie le grant meschief que uos auez fet por lui.¹ Lors prent la reine le cheualier par la main destre · et dit · Galehout · ge uos doign cest cheualier a toz iorz sauf ce² que ge iai auant eu · et uos le creantez · fet ele · et li cheualiers li creante · et sauez uos · fet ele a Galehout · qui ge uos ai done. Dame · fet il · nenil. Ge uos ai done · fait ele · lancelet del lac le filz au roi ban de benoic. Einsint li fet la reine le cheualier conoistre qui molt en a grant honte.³ Lors a Galehout greignor ioie que il not onques mes · car il auoit assez oi dire ainsi com paroles uont que lancelet del lac estoit li mielres cheualiers del monde pources om · et bien sauoit que li rois bans auoit este mout gentils et mout puissanz damis et de terre. Einsint fu fez li premiers acointementz del cheualier et de la reine par Galehout · ne Galehout ne lauait onques coneu fors de ueoir · et porce li auoit fet lancelet creanter que il ne li demanderoit son non deuant ce que il li deist ou autres por lui. Lors se leuerent tuit troi · et il anuitoit ia mout durement · mes il faisoit cler que ia estoit la lune leuee si ueoit len mout cler tot contreual la prairie. Atant sentornent tuit troi contreual les prez droit uers la tente lo roy · et li seneschaus Galehout uient apres entre lui et les dames tant que il uient endroit la tente Galehout. Et lors en enuoie Galehout son compaignon · et il prent congie de la reine si empassent outre entre lui et le seneschal. Et Galehout conuoie la reine dusquau tref lo roi. Et quant li rois les uoit si demande dom il uient. Sire · fet Galehout · nos uenons de cez prez a si petite compaignie que uos ueez. Lors sasient et parolent de maintes choses · et mout sont aise entre Galehout et la reine. A chief de piece se lieue la reine et dit que ele ueut aler co-

¹ *Que vous avez souffert pour lui.* Manuscript 16,999 in Bibliothèque Nationale.

² For *ce* there is a marginal reading *le droit*, which is the reading of Roy. 20, D. iii. *Sauue le droit que ico aie auant eu.*

³ *Honte* is a substitution for *ioie*, which has been erased.

chier • et Galehout la conuoie iusque la et la commande
adeu • et li dit que il ira anuit gesir avec som compaignon •
si le solacera car or set il bien de coi • mes auantier ne sauoie
ge de coi gel solacasse. Ha sire • fet ele • comme auez uos
ore bien dit • quil en sera mout plus aese. Atant se part
Galehout de li • et uient au roi si prent congie • et dit que
il ne li poist mie quil ira anuit gesir en son tref entre sa
gent • ou il ne uit pieca • et il me couendroit fet il • mout
fere lor uolente car il font mout uolentiers lamoie et mout
mamment. Certes • fet missire Gauuains • uos auez mout bien
dit • car mout doit len ses proudes genz amer et enorer quant
en les a. Lors sen uet Galehout a son compaignon • et se
cochierent la nuit • ambedui ensemble en un lit • et parolent
de ce dont lor cuers sont aese.

TRANSLATION OF THE FOREGOING.

THUS went Gallehault to his comrade morning and evening;
and each time he came back the Queen asked him what he
had contrived. And at night Gallehault went back where
he was wont; and on the morrow early he came to his com-
rade and said to him: "Now is the end, for this very day
behoves it that the Queen see you."

"Sir, for heaven's sake, contrive so that no one know it
save you and she, for there are plenty of folk in the house-
hold of the king who would know me well if they saw me."

"Have no fear, quoth Gallehault, for I will see to it right
well."

Thereupon he took leave of him, and called his seneschal.
"See, quoth he, if I send to fetch you, that you come to me
and bring my comrade so that no one know that it is he."

"Sir, quoth he, according to your pleasure."

Then Gallehault returned to the pavilion of the King, and the Queen asked him, "What news?"

"Lady, quoth he, fair enough; the flower of the knight-hood of the world has come."

"Heaven, quoth she, how shall I see him? for I desire to see him in such wise that no man know it save he, and I, and you; for I desire not that other folk be gladdened thereby."

"By heaven, lady, quoth Gallehault, thus shall it be; for he said that he would not any folk of King Arthur's household should know him on any account."

"How, quoth she, is he then known to any?"

"Lady, quoth he, there are folk might see him, who would know him well."

"Heaven, quoth the Queen, who can he be?"

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, fore heaven, I know not, for never did he tell me his name, nor whence he is."

"Nay! quoth she, fore heaven, a strange thing do I hear; and now do I long to see him more than ever."

"Lady, quoth he, you shall see him this very night, and I will tell you how. We will go forthwith to take our pleasure¹ down yonder, — and he shows her a place in the midst of the meadows all full of bushes, — and we will have the least company we may, and there you shall see him; and we will go a little before nightfall."

"Ah, quoth she, true sweet friend, how well you have spoken. And would the Lord of the world were pleased it were nightfall now."

Then they began both to laugh, and the queen embraced him, and made him very joyful. And the Lady of Malehaut saw them laugh, and thought that now the affair was more advanced than she was aware; and she took great heed, and no knight came into the house but she looked him full in the face. And the Queen was very joyful that the knight was come, and she longed greatly for the night to fall. And she

¹ *Deduire*: se divertir. — Ste. Palaye.

strove to talk and to frolic¹ in order to forget the day, which was wearisome to her.

Thus passed the day till it came about, after supper, the evening fell. And the Queen took Gallehault by the hand, and the Lady of Malehaut with her, and the damsel Laura of Carduel, and one of her maidens, without more company. And she wended her way adown the meadows straight to where Gallehault had told her. And when they had gone a little way, Gallehault looked about and saw an esquire, and he called him, and told him to go and bid his seneschal come to him; and he showed him in what place. And when the Queen heard it, she looked and said: "How, quoth she, is he your seneschal?"

"Nay, lady, quoth he, but he will come with him."

Thereupon they came beneath the trees, and the Queen and Gallehault sat down together apart some way from the others. And the Lady of Malehaut and the others likewise marvelled much that they sat so privately. And the varlet came to the seneschal, and gave his message. And the other straightway took the knight with him, and they crossed the water and came all adown the meadows to where the varlet showed them.² When they came near, the ladies looked at them, and the Lady of Malehaut knew the goodly knight to be him who many days had had her in his keeping;³ and inasmuch as she did not wish him to know her, she bent down and drew close to the damsel Laura. And the others passed beyond, and the seneschal drew near to the ladies and greeted them; and Gallehault said to the Queen,—

"Lady, see here the best knight in the world."

"Which is that?" quoth the Queen.

¹ *Rager* ou *Ragier*: folâtrer. — Ste. Palaye.

² Here in several manuscripts follows, "and both were such goodly knights and fair, that in vain would one seek fairer in any land."

³ Or, according to another reading, "whom many days she had had in her keeping."

"Lady, which do you think it is?"

"Indeed, quoth she, they are both right fair knights, but I do not see here any that should have the half of the valour the black knight had."

"Lady, quoth he, know that he is one of these two."

Thereupon they came before the Queen; and the knight trembled so greatly that he could not greet the Queen; and all his color went from him, so that the Queen marvelled much thereat. Then they both knelt down, and Gallehault's seneschal greeted her, and the other knight did likewise, but in very poor fashion, — nay, he fixed his eyes on the ground as though ashamed. And then bethought the Queen that this was he. And then said Gallehault to the seneschal, "Go and keep company with yon ladies, who are all too lonely."

And the Queen took the knight by the hand as he was on his knees, and seated him before her, and looked very kindly upon him, and said to him laughing: "Sir, much have we desired you, so that, thanks to heaven and Gallehault who is here, we now see you. Nathless still I know not if you be the knight whom I desire. But Gallehault tells me that you are; and yet I would fain know from your lips who you are, if such were your pleasure."

And he answered her that he knew not; nor ever once did he look her full in the face. And the Queen marvelled much what ailed him; yet she suspected in part how it was with him. And Gallehault, seeing him abashed and ashamed, thought he would sooner tell his thoughts to the Queen if they were alone; so he looked, and said aloud so that the ladies heard him: "Indeed, quoth he, now am I right churlish, for all these ladies have but one sole knight to keep them company; nay, they are quite lonely."

Then he rose up and came to them, and they all came to meet him, and he seated them again. And then they began to talk of divers matters. And the Queen spake to the knight, and said to him: "Fair sweet Sir, wherefore do you hide

yourself from me? Indeed, there is no reason. Nathless you may well tell me if you are he who conquered in the assembly¹ the day before yesterday."

"Lady, quoth he, nay."

"How, quoth she, had you not armor all black?"

"Lady, yea."

"And then were you not he to whom Sir Gawain sent the three horses?"

"Lady, yea."

"Then are you not he who wore the armor of Gallehault on the last day?"

"Lady, yea."

"Then are you not he who conquered in the assembly on the second day?"

"Lady, I did not, of a truth."

Then the Queen perceived, indeed, that he would not confess that he had conquered; and she prized him much in her heart therefore.

"Now tell me, quoth she, who made you a knight?"

"Lady, you," quoth he.

"I! quoth she, when?"

"Lady, quoth he, do you remember how a knight came to my lord the King at Camelot, who was hurt in the body by two stumps of lances, and in the head by a sword, and how a varlet came to him on the Friday in the evening who was a knight on the Sunday morn?"

"Of this, quoth she, I mind me right well; and so help you God, were you he whom the damsel brought to court clad in a white robe?"

"Yea, lady," quoth he.

¹ *Assemblée*: "Ce mot *assemblée* signifioit . . . la réunion de nombre de personnes en un même lieu et pour le même dessin. . . . Dans les siècles brillans de la chevalerie, les Tornois étoient des *assemblées d'honneur*." — Ste. Palaye.

"And wherefore, quoth she, do you say, then, that I made you a knight?"

"Lady, because it is true; for the custom in the kingdom of Logres is such that no one there can be made a knight without girding on the sword; and the one of whom he holds the sword makes him a knight; and I hold it of you, lady, for the king gave me not one; and therefore I say that you made me a knight."

"Indeed, quoth the Queen, of this am I right glad; and whither did you go from thence?"

"Lady, I went to the aid of the Lady of Nohan; and thither came afterwards Sir Kew,¹ and we fought, he and I, against two knights."

"And before this, quoth the Queen, did you send me nought?"

"Lady, yea, two maidens."

"By my head, quoth she, it is true; and when you were come back from Nohan did you find no one who challenged you in my name?"

"Lady, indeed yea, — a knight who was guarding a ford; and he bade me get down from my horse, and I asked him whose he was; and he said he was yours. 'Get down at once,' quoth he; and I asked him who had bidden him, and he said that bidding he had none save his own; and I put back my foot which I had taken out of the stirrup, and I told him that he would not have it² that day of a surety. And I jousting at him; and I know well that I did wrong, and I crave your pardon for it, lady, and you will exact what amends it shall seem good to you."

And the Queen, who saw that he could not escape being hers, answered him: "Indeed, fair sweet friend, quoth she, you did me no wrong, for he was not mine; nay, I was much displeased thereat, when he came to me and told it to me. But now tell me whither did you go from thence?"

¹ The seneschal of King Arthur.

² That is, his horse.

"Lady, quoth he, to the Dolorous Keep."

"Who conquered it?" quoth she.

"Lady, quoth he, I entered therein."

"And did I ever see you there?" quoth she.

"Lady, yea, more than once."

"In what place?" quoth she.

"Lady, one day that I asked you if you would enter in, and you said yea, and were much abashed in mien; and this I said to you twice."

"What shield, quoth she, did you bear?"

"Lady, quoth he, I bare the first time a shield all white with a band of red slantwise;¹ and the other time one with two bands of like color."

"That device, quoth the Queen, I know well; and did I see you there any more?"

"Lady, yea, the night that you thought to have lost my lord Gawain, your nephew, and his comrades, and that the people of the castle cried out, 'Take him! Take him!' And I came out with a shield on my neck, with three bands of red slantwise. And my lord the King was before a tent with you, and when I came towards him the people cried out, 'Take him, King! Take him, King!' but he let me go, thanks be to him."

"Indeed, quoth she, this grieves me, for if he had stayed you all the enchantment of the castle would have been done away. But now tell me, was it you who delivered Gawain and his comrades from the prison?"

"Lady, I helped therein to the best of my power."

"In all the matters, quoth she, whereof you have told me, have I yet found nought save the truth; but now, I pray you, tell me who was a maiden who passed the night in a tower

¹ *Belic*, which I have rendered "slantwise," appears to occur only in the *Romans de la Table Ronde*. Cotgrave, Littré, and others, explain it as "red," "gules;" as, however, we read of "*bandes de belic blanches*," this cannot be correct. Paulin Paris remarks: "Ce mot répond au latin *obliquus*, et distingue les bandes transversales des horizontales, plus tard nommées *fusces*."

which was above the hostel of my lord the King, clothed in white linen raiment ? ”

“ Indeed, lady, quoth he, this was the damsel to whom I behaved all too churlishly ; for the Lady of the Lake had sent her to me, and she found me in that tower and was much honored of me ; and when I heard the news of my lord Gawain, how he was taken, I was greatly moved, and I departed from the damsel who would fain have come with me. And I prayed her by the fealty she owed me that she would not remove before she should see my messenger or me ; and I was so overcome by such grave matters that I forgot her, and did not return to her after. And she was more loyal towards me than I was courteous towards her, for never from there did she remove before she heard news of me, and that was a long while after.”

And when the Queen heard him speak of the Lady of the Lake she knew well straightway that he was Lancelot. And she asked him of all the matters which she had heard related of him, and of all she found that he spake the truth.

“ Now tell me, quoth she, after that as a knight you departed from Camelot did I ever see you again ? ”

“ Lady, quoth he, — yea, at such an hour as you did me great service ; for I should have been drowned had it not been for you, who had me drawn forth from the water by my lord Yvain.”

“ How ! quoth she, was it you whom Daguenet the coward took ? ”

“ Lady, quoth he, I know not who it was, but taken I was of a surety.”

“ And whither were you going ? ” quoth she.

“ Lady, quoth he, I was following a knight.”

“ And when, quoth she, you had parted from me the last time, whither did you go ? ”

“ Lady, after the knight whom I was following.”

“ And did you fight with him ? ”

"Lady, yea."

"And whither did you go after?"

"Lady, I found two great villains who slew my horse; but my lord Yvain, whom good luck attend, gave me his."

"Ah! quoth the Queen, then know I well who you are; your name is Lancelot of the Lake.

And he held his peace.

"By heaven, quoth she, to no purpose do you conceal it; it hath long while been known, for my lord Gawain first brought your name to court."

Then she related to him all, — how Sir Gawain had said that it was the third assembly, when Sir Yvain said that the maiden had told him that it was the third. Then she asked him again wherefore he had allowed the most worthless man in the world to lead him away by the bridle.

"Lady, quoth he, I allowed it as one who had no power over his heart or his body."

"Now tell me, quoth she, were you last year at the assembly?"

"Lady, yea."

"What armor, quoth she, did you wear?"

"Lady, quoth he, a suit all red."

"By my head, quoth she, you say true; and the day before yesterday at the assembly, for whom did you perform so great feats?"

And he began to sigh very deeply. And the Queen cut him short, as knowing well how it was with him.

"Tell me, quoth she, verily, for I will never discover you; and I know well for some lady or damsel you have done all this; now tell me who she is, by the fealty you owe her?"

"Ah, lady, quoth he, I see well that it behoves me to say. It is you, lady."

"I! quoth she, for me did you in no wise shiver the two lances which my maiden brought to you, for I kept myself aloof from the other ladies in the ordering."

"Lady, quoth he, I did for them what I should, and for you what I could."

"Now tell me, quoth she, — all the deeds you have wrought, for whom did you do them?"

"Lady, quoth he, for you."

"How! quoth she, do you love me then so much?"

"Lady, quoth he, so much love I not myself nor another."

"And since when, quoth the Queen, have you loved me so much?"

"Lady, quoth he, since the day when I was called knight, and was as yet none of it."

"By the fealty, quoth she, that you owe me, whence came this so great and entire love that you have placed in me?"

At these words that the Queen spake it came to pass that the Lady of Malehaut coughed all openly, and raised her head which she had before bent down. And the knight did hear her now, for many a time had he heard her. And he looked at her, and when he saw her he conceived such fear and anguish that he could not make answer to what the Queen asked him; and he began to sigh so deeply that the tears ran from his eyes all adown his cheeks, so heavily that the samite wherewith he was clad was made wet even to his knees before him. And the more he looked at the Lady of Malehaut the more was his heart disquieted. Of this matter the Queen took heed, and she saw that he looked very fearfully to where the ladies were, and she spake to him: "Tell me, quoth she, whence this love arose of the which I ask you?"

And he forced himself to speak as well as he might, and said: "Lady, so help me God, from the day that I have told you."

"How was this, then?" quoth she.

"Lady, quoth he, you made me to do it, who made of me your friend, if your lips lied not to me."

"My friend, quoth she, how?"

"Lady, quoth he, I came before you when I had taken leave

of the King my lord, fully armed save my head and my hands, and I bade you farewell, and said that I was your knight and your friend ; and you answered that your knight and your friend you were fain I should be in what place soever I was. And I said, 'Farewell, lady.' And you said, 'Farewell, fair sweet friend.' And never since has this word gone forth from my heart. This was the word which will make of me a brave knight, if so be I ever am one. Nor ever since did I come into so great mischance but of this word I was mindful. This word has comforted me in all my troubles. This word has been my shield from all ill, and has kept me from all danger. This word has filled me whensoever I have been hungry. This word has made me rich in all my great poverty."

"I'faith, quoth the Queen, this word was said in good time,¹ and God be praised who made me to say it ; but I took it not in such serious sort as you have done, and to many a knight have I said as much when I recked nought beyond the speech. And your thought was no wise churlish, nay rather was it sweet and of good liking. And well has it happed to you, for a brave knight it has made you. And yet no wise such is the manner of knights who make show to ladies of like matters whereof little is in their hearts. And your mien shows me that you love I know not which of those ladies yonder more than you do me, for you have wept greatly in affright, and dare not look towards them with direct look ; and I perceive well that your thought is no wise wholly set on me as you make pretence. And by the fealty you owe to that which you most love, which of the three² is it that you so much love ?"

"So help me God, quoth he, not ever one of them has had my heart in her keeping."

"Of that there is no need, quoth the Queen ; you cannot

¹ Add. 10,293 in British Museum reads 'here, *de moult boine eure*, "of great good chance."

² There were three ladies there, — the Lady of Malehaut, Laura of Carduel and one of Queen Guenever's maidens.

hide aught of it from me, for I have seen many such like things; and I see well that your heart is yonder although your body be here."

And this she said to see how she might disquiet him, for she knew well that he thought not of love save for her; otherwise would he have done her further wrong beyond the day when he fought in the black armor;¹ but she took delight in cruel wise in hearing and seeing his disquietude. And he was in such sore anguish thereat that he well-nigh swooned, but the fear of the ladies who were looking at him kept him therefrom; and the Queen herself was in fear thereof, for she saw him turn pale and change color. And she took him by the arm lest he should fall, and called Gallehault. And he leaped up and came to her running; and when he saw that his comrade was in such a plight he felt the greatest anguish thereat in his heart that a man can feel, and said, "Ah, lady, I pray you tell me, what has there passed?"

And the Queen related to him what she had put before him.

"Ah, lady, quoth Gallehault, have pity; you might well take him from us by such wrath, and that would be too great a hurt."

"Indeed, quoth she, the hurt would be mine. But do you know for whom he has performed so great feats?"

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, nay, verily.

"If that be true, quoth she, that he has told me, it was for me."

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, so truly help me God, you may well believe it; for even as he is braver than any man, so likewise is his heart more true than any other."

¹ The black armor had been supplied him by the Lady of Malehaut; in wearing it he had, as it were, been disloyal to Guenever. This passage is somewhat difficult. I have adopted an interpretation suggested to me (on a hint from the reading of manuscript 16,999, in Bib. Nat.) by M. Arsène Darmesteter, who paraphrases: *il se serait mal conduit envers elle plus que cette seule journée qu'il avait faite avec les armes noires.*

"Verily, quoth the Queen, would you say that he was brave if you knew what feats he has performed since he was made a knight."

Then she recounted to him his feats of chivalry even as he had performed them, and related how he had confessed that he had worn the red armor at the other assembly. "And know of a truth that all these things he has done for a single word." Then the Queen told him of the word, as you have heard that he told her.

"Ah, lady, quoth Gallehault, take pity on him for his great deserts, and do it for me in like manner as I have done what you prayed of me."

"What pity, quoth she, will you that I have on him?"

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, you know well that he loves you above everything, and has done more for you than ever any other knight has done for lady; and see him here, and know of a truth that never peace between my lord the King and me had been made if he himself had not made it."

"Indeed, quoth she, I in no wise doubt but that he has done more for me than I could requite to him, even if he had done no more than procure this peace; nor could he require aught of me that I could becomingly deny him. But he requires nought of me; nay, he is so doleful that he has never ceased to weep after that he began to look towards yonder ladies. Nathless I misdoubt him not of love that he may have for any of them, but he fears lest it chance that any of them know him."

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, of this behoves it not to speak; but have pity on him, for he loves you more than he does himself. And as to this, so help me God, I knew nought of his condition¹ when he came, save only that he feared to be known; nor ever aught more has he discovered to me."

¹ *Covine*: diminutif de queue et au figuré "suite de personnes." — Ste. Palaye.

"I will have, quoth she, such pity on him as you would, for you have done what I required of you ; and I ought indeed to do for him what you would, but he asks naught of me."

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, because he has not the power ; nor can a man love aught without he fears. But I pray you for him, and if I did not pray it of you, yet should you procure it, for more rich treasure could you no wise win."

"Indeed, quoth she, I know it well, and I will do whatsoever you bid me."

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, much thanks ; and I pray you to give him your love, and to take him as your knight for always, and to become his loyal friend for all the days of your life ; then will you have made him more rich than if you gave him the whole world."

"Even so, quoth the Queen, I grant that he be mine, and I altogether his. And by you be punished all misdoing or breach of the covenant."

"Lady, quoth he, much thanks ; but now behoves it to make beginning of surety."

"You will devise nought, quoth the Queen, but I will do it."

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, then kiss him, as a beginning of true love."

"For a kiss, quoth she, see I now neither place nor time, but no wise doubt but that I am as fain as he. But these ladies are yonder who marvel much that we have so long talked here, and it could not be but they would see it. Nathless if he desire it I will kiss him right willingly."

And he was so joyful and astonied thereat that he could not make answer, save only, "Lady, much thanks."

"Ah, lady, quoth Gallehault, doubt not now of his desire, for he is wholly set on it. And know well that none shall perceive it, for we will all three draw together even as if we took counsel."

"Wherefore should I make you to pray me ? quoth she ; more do I desire it than you or he."

Then they all three drew together and made as if they took counsel. And the Queen saw well that the knight dared do no farther, and she took him by the chin and kissed him before Gallehault no short space, so that the Lady of Malehaut knew of a truth that she kissed him. Then the Queen, who was a right worthy and prudent lady, began to speak: "Fair sweet friend, quoth she, I am yours, seeing that you have done so much for me, and I am right well pleased thereat. Now see that the matter be hid, even as you know it needs should; for I am a lady of whom the greatest good in the world has been spoken, and if my praise were to be minished through you, here would be love unlovely and churlish. And you, Gallehault, quoth she, do I beseech as being most prudent, for if evil happed to me thereby, it could not be save through you; and if I have thereby good hap or joy, you will have given it me."

"Lady, quoth Gallehault, indeed it could not go amiss with you; but I have done for you what you prayed of me, now needs it that you give ear to a prayer that I made to you yesterday, when I said to you that you might betimes better help me, than I you."

"Tell me verily, quoth she, for you could nought require of me but I would do it for you."

"Lady, quoth he, then did you grant that you would give me his company for always."

"Indeed, quoth she, if this were lacking to you, ill would have served you the great sacrifice¹ you made for his sake."

Then the Queen took the knight by the right hand, and said: "Gallehault, I give you this knight for always, saving

¹ So I render *meschief* here, taking it to refer to Gallehault's having pledged himself to Lancelot that he would submit to King Arthur on the third day of the Assembly, when the forces of the latter should be on the point of yielding. This undertaking Gallehault loyally performed, and it was thus that Lancelot made peace between him and King Arthur.

the right that I have had over him before ; and do you swear it," quoth she ; and the knight sware it.

"And do you know, quoth she to Gallehault, whom I have given you ?"

"Lady, quoth he, nay."

"I have given you, quoth she, Lancelot of the Lake, the son of the King Ban of Benoit."

Thus did the Queen make known to him the knight, who was greatly abashed thereat. Then was Gallehault more glad than he had ever been, for oftentimes had he heard said, as the saying goes, that Lancelot of the Lake was the best knight in the world, poor man ; and he knew well that the King Ban had been very noble, and very mighty in lands and in friends.

Thus was contrived the first acquaintance between the knight and the Queen by Gallehault ; nor had Gallehault ever known him save by sight, and therefore had Lancelot made him swear that he would not ask of him his name before that he told it to him, or another for him.

Then they all three arose ; and now had the night fallen right heavily, but it was light ; for now was the moon risen, and it was quite light all adown the meadows. Then they returned all three adown the meadows straight towards the tent of the King. And the seneschal of Gallehault came after, he and the ladies together, until they came to the tent of Gallehault. And then Gallehault sent away his comrade, and he took leave of the Queen, and he and the seneschal together passed beyond. And Gallehault escorted the Queen as far as the pavilion of the King. And when the King saw them, he asked whence they came.

"Sir, quoth Gallehault, we come from these meadows in such small company as you see."

Then they sat down and talked of divers matters, and Gallehault and the Queen were well pleased together. And after a while the Queen got up and said that she would fain go to

bed, and Gallehault escorted her thither, and bade her farewell, and said that he was going that night to lie with his comrade ; and that he would comfort him, for now he knew well wherewith he could. "But the day before yesterday I knew not, quoth he, wherewith I should comfort him."

"Ah, sir, quoth she, how well have you now spoken, for he will be gladdened much more thereby."

Then Gallehault parted from her, and came to the King and took leave, and said that the King must not take it ill that he should go to lie that night in his pavilion with his folk, where he had not been for a while.

"And it would beseem me well, quoth he, to do their pleasure, for they do mine right willingly, and love me much."

"Indeed, quoth Gawain, you have right well spoken, for much ought one to love and honor one's brave folk when one has any such."

Then Gallehault went his way to his comrade, and they slept the night together both in one bed, and talked of that of which their hearts were fain.

February, 1886.